



SEATON VALLEY
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

-----oOo-----

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND THE

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1946.

SEATON VALLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL:

Councillor A. Scott, J.P.,

VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL:

Councillor Mrs. C. Langman.

-----oOo-----

HEALTH COMMITTEE:

CHAIRMAN: Councillor J.J. Hardcastle.

Members: The whole Council.

OFFICIALS OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health:

William Cunningham, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health:

Mrs. Evelyn M. Hall, M.B., B.S.

Chief Sanitary Inspector:

John W. Barker, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Assistant Sanitary Inspector:

John R. Day, from November.

Senior Clerk:

Mr. T.J. Elliott.

Council Offices,
Seaton Delaval,
Northumberland.

September, 1947.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Seaton Valley Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present to you the Annual Report of the Health and Sanitary conditions of the district during the year 1946.

The Report has been prepared in an abridged form according to instructions from the Ministry of Health.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

1454 children up to 4 years of age and 3256 between 5 and 14 years of age had completed a full course of immunisation at any time up to the 31st December, 1946.

The estimated child population for mid-year 1946 was 1472 up to 4 years of age and 3680 between 5 and 14 years.

Infectious Diseases.

I have to record a slight decrease in cases of Scarlet Fever and a slight increase in cases of Diphtheria.

Scarlet Fever.

45 cases were notified during the year as against 50 in 1945.

Diphtheria.

28 cases were notified during the year as against 24 in 1945.

No deaths occurred.

Measles.

There was a decrease in the number of cases notified. 138 cases were notified as against 197 in 1945.

Births.

The birth rate is higher than in 1945.

Deaths.

The death rate is almost the same as in 1945.

Milk - Tuberculosis.

Eleven samples of milk submitted for examination for presence of B. Tuberculosis were found to be negative.

One sample taken out of the area from a supply produced within the district proved positive. One infected cow from the herd was slaughtered.

Milk Supply.

There was an average maintenance of supplies of milk, but the keeping qualities showed some improvement.

Transport facilities may be improved in 1947 when milk should be fresher on delivery.

Details of analyses of samples will be found within the report.

Nutrition.

I have no evidence of malnutrition in the people due to present restrictions.

I wish to thank the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their sympathetic encouragement during a year of difficult conditions, and Mr. Barker and all the staff for their constant loyalty and hardwork.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

W. CUNNINGHAM,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.

STATISTICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres) - 12,459

Population: Registrar-General's Estimate of population mid-year 1946 was 25,750 (24,720).

Inhabited Houses: 7,356 approximately at March, 1946.

Rateable Value - £103,545 at 1st April, 1947.

(£103,452 at 1st April, 1946).

Sum represented by a penny rate - £386 (£388 in 1945).

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

Live Births	<u>Males</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	235	233	468
Illegitimate	<u>16</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>25</u>
	<u>251</u>	<u>242</u>	<u>493 (435)</u>

Distribution of births registered in Seaton Valley Urban Area shown in districts:

District	<u>Legitimate</u>		<u>Illegitimate</u>		<u>Total</u>
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	
Cramlington:	40	41	1	2	84
Seaton Delaval:	30	26	1	0	57
Seghill:	23	25	1	0	49
Earsdon:	52	49	3	0	104
	<u>145</u>	<u>141</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>294</u>

199 births (100 males and 99 females) were registered in other districts. Of these 10 males and 7 females were illegitimate.

Birth Rate.

The birth rate per 1,000 of the estimate resident population is 19.14 (17.57 in 1945).

Still Births.

15 (9 males and 6 females). (15 in 1945).

Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births - 29.53
(33.33 in 1945).

Deaths.

<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
144	133	277 (265 in 1945)

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age:

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	9	11	20
Illegitimate	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>
	<u>11</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>22 (15)</u>

Distribution of deaths in districts:-

Districts	Males	Females	Total
Cramlington:	51	38	89
Seaton Delaval:	29	35	64
Seghill:	14	8	22
Earsdon:	50	52	102
	144	133	277

Death Rate.

The death rate per 1,000 of the estimate resident population is 10.76 (10.70 in 1945).

Corrected Death Rate.

The preparation and issue of the Comparability Factor has been suspended under present conditions, and it is not possible therefore to give the corrected death rate for 1946.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

No. 29	Puerperal Sepsis	-	0 (1)
No. 30	Other maternal causes	-	0 (2)

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age.

All infants per 1,000 live births	-	44.62 (34.49)
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	-	42.74 (36.05)
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	-	80.00 (0)
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	-	42 (46)
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	-	0 (0)
Deaths from Whooping Cough	-	0 (0)
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	-	3 (0)

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

There were no changes in:

- (a) Laboratory facilities.
- (b) Nursing in the Home.
- (c) Treatment Centres and Clinics.
- (d) Hospitals.

Laboratory facilities:

The following examinations were made in the County Laboratory at Newburn:-

Examination Requested	Swabs	Positive	Negative
Diphtheria	87	12	75
B. Tuberculosis	39	17	22
Strept. Haemolyticus	84	16	68
Faeces (For Organisms)	3	1	2
	213	46	167

Ambulance Services.

The ambulance services remain the same as in 1945. Private vehicles are available for residents who are not contributors to welfare or colliery ambulance schemes.

Seaton Valley U.D.C. pay 25% of the cost of all ambulance services.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.

Water is purchased in bulk from the Tynemouth Corporation and the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company, and is distributed by the Council through the Council's network of mains. Extensions of the distribution mains have been made during the year to afford supplies to proposed new houses at Klondyke and Moorside Estates.

The poor pressure of water at Holywell noted in last year's report has been rectified by the construction of a 6-inch main at Seaton Delaval which links the Seghill and Earsdon systems of distribution. The Council is now able to feed Seaton Terrace and, on occasion, Holywell, with water purchased in Seghill, and this reduces the demand on, and maintains a better pressure in, the long extension of the Earsdon main.

Complaints regarding the poor pressure of water at the Beacon Smallholdings, Cramlington, should receive attention as soon as possible.

The water is controlled by bacteriological and chemical examination by the Tynemouth Corporation and the Newcastle & Gateshead Water Company. The supply as received and distributed is satisfactory in quality and quantity.

The following table shows the districts served by the two bulk water suppliers and the appropriate number of houses and approximate population served by standpipes and with house services:-

Newcastle & Gateshead Water Co.

	EARSDON	SEGHILL
Houses supplied by standpipe	603	162
Population	2,104	590
Houses with internal services	2,508	512
Population	8,660	1,780

Tynemouth Corporation.

	Cranlington	Seaton Delaval
Houses supplied by standpipe	864	329
Population	3,037	1,152
Houses with internal services	1,314	1,064
Population	4,672	3,705

Drainage and Sewerage.

Sewage from the western part of Cranlington continues to be treated at the temporary works at Nelson Village, and the Council should not overlook the need for a more permanent arrangement as soon as conditions in general will allow.

Defective sewers in Shankhouse have been temporarily repaired.

Subsidence has seriously affected the main outfall sewer between Seaton Delaval and New Hartley, and plans for the relaying of two sections were prepared for execution in 1947.

Occasional serious flooding occurred at the Avenue Head, Seaton Delaval, due to the absence of any adequate drainage system in the County roads. The County Surveyor undertook to prepare a scheme of drainage.

There have been no further complaints regarding the discharge of storm water from the Earsdon main sewer into the Brier Dene stream.

Rivers and Streams.

No action was taken in the matter of pollution of rivers or streams in the area during the year.

Colliery Companies are depositing washery effluent into the Brier Dene and Seaton Burn water courses.

Closet Accommodation	) These items are dealt with in the Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report.
Public Cleansing	
Sanitary Inspection of the District	
Shops and Offices	
Camping Sites	
Swimming Baths and Pools	
Eradication of Bed Bugs	)

Schools.

The sanitary condition and the water supply of all schools in the area have been satisfactory.

SECTIONS D AND E.

relating to Housing and inspection and supervision of Food are dealt with in the Chief Sanitary Inspector's report.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Scarlet Fever.

45 (50) cases of Scarlet Fever were notified. 40 cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital. 5 cases were isolated at home.

Distribution in the districts was:-

Cramlington:	29	(15)	cases
Seaton Delaval:	10	(12)	"
Seghill:	0	(4)	"
Earsdon:	6	(19)	"
	45	(50)	"

Incidence of Scarlet Fever per 1,000 of the population was 1.74 (2.02).

Diphtheria.

28 (24 cases) of Diphtheria were notified during the year.

All were removed to the Isolation Hospital.

There were 0 (0) deaths.

Distribution in the districts was:-

Cramlington:	21	(1)
Seaton Delaval:	4	(3)
Seghill:	0	(1)
Earsdon:	5	(19)
	28	(24)

Incidence of Diphtheria per 1,000 of the population was 1.08 (0.96).

87 throat swabs were submitted to the Laboratory during the year, and 12 proved positive for Diphtheria.

16 cases had been immunised.

(4 years ago - 6); (2 years ago - 5); (1 year ago - 5).

399 children up to 14 years of age have completed a full course of immunisation during the year, and 33 have received a reinforcing doze.

Incidence of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria for the year, separated into districts and houses of the following classes:- Clearance Area Houses; Council Houses; Private Dwelling Houses.

District	Scarlet Fever			Diphtheria		
	C.A.	C.H.	P.D.H.	C.A.	C.H.	P.D.H.
Cramlington:	4(2)	9(2)	16(11)	1(1)	5(0)	15(6)
Seaton Delaval:	0(0)	2(2)	8(10)	0(0)	1(0)	5(3)
Seghill:	0(1)	0(2)	0(1)	0(0)	0(4)	0(0)
Earsdon:	0(0)	2(7)	4(12)	0(3)	2(12)	1(1)
	4(3)	13(13)	28(34)	1(4)	8(16)	19(10)

Pneumonia.

6 (5) cases of Pneumonia were notified.

Deaths - 7 (6).

Incidence rate per 1,000 of the population was 0.23 (0.20).

It is evident here that some cases of Pneumonia have not been notified.

Erysipelas.

2 (4) cases of Erysipelas were notified.

All cases were treated at home.

Notifiable Diseases (excluding Tuberculosis) during 1946.

Cases	Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)
Scarlet Fever	45(50)	40(48)	0(0)
Diphtheria	28(24)	28(24)	0(0)
Enteric Fever	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)
Puerperal Pyrexia	1(1)	0(1)	0(1)
Pneumonia	6(5)	0(1)	7(6)
Erysipelas	2(4)	0(0)	0(0)
Dysentery	0(2)	0(1)	0(0)
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0(2)	0(0)	0(0)
Whooping Cough	12(11)	0(0)	0(0)
Measles	138(197)	0(0)	0(0)
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	3(0)	2(0)	0(0)

Analysis of Total Notified Cases Under Age Groups

Diseases	Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 & Over
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	1	1	3	2	2	21	9	1	3	2	-	-
Diphtheria	1	-	1	1	2	11	5	2	-	5	-	-
Enteric Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	4
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	1	3	5	-	3	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	7	12	15	17	18	64	2	3	-	-	-	-
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	-

Prevention of Blindness.

No cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum were notified during the year.

Tuberculosis.

At the beginning of the year there were 140(180) cases on the register, 95 Pulmonary and 45 Non-Pulmonary.

27 new cases, 20 Pulmonary and 7 Non-Pulmonary were reported during the year.

There were 3 (13) deaths, 6 Pulmonary and 2 Non-Pulmonary.

143 (140) cases, 99 Pulmonary and 44 Non-Pulmonary were on the register at the end of the year.

7 cases, 5 Pulmonary and 2 Non-Pulmonary were transferred to other districts.

8 cases, 4 Pulmonary and 4 Non-Pulmonary, were removed from the register as having recovered.

1 case of Pulmonary Tuberculosis was removed from the register due to duplication.

New Cases and Mortality during 1946.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5-	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
15-	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-
25-	-	3	3	-	1	-	-	-
35-	2	2	-	1	-	2	-	-
45-	4	2	-	-	1	-	1	-
55-	1	1	-	-	2	-	-	-
65 & Over	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
	10	10	3	4	4	2	1	1

Distribution of Deaths in Districts

District	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
Cramlington:	1	-	-	1	2
Seaton Delaval:	2	-	-	-	2
Seghill:	-	-	-	-	-
Earsdon:	1	2	1	-	4
	4	2	1	1	8

Death rate from Tuberculosis (all forms) was 57.14 (72.22) per 1,000 cases.

Death rate per 1,000 population was 0.31 (0.52).

Notification of Tuberculosis.

No action was necessary to enforce notification.

Tuberculosis in Milk.

Eleven samples of milk exposed for sale in the district were examined for B. Tuberculosis, all samples proved negative.

One sample of milk exposed for sale out of the district, but taken from a herd in the district was examined and proved positive for B. Tuberculosis. As a result of this examination, one cow was found to be affected, and was slaughtered. The County Veterinary Inspector co-operated.

Scabies Order 1941.

Cases notified	-	33
Cases reported cured	-	0

Coal Dust from Maude & Eccles Pits, Backworth.

The improvement is still being maintained.

Venereal Diseases.

Propaganda has been conducted on the lines suggested by the Ministry of Health and Central Council for Health Education.

No cases had applied to the department for advice.

Birth-rates, Civilian Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case rates for certain Infectious diseases in the Year 1946. Provisional figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns.

	England and Wales	126 C.Bs. and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns Resident Pop. 25,000-50,000 1931 Census	London Adm. County
--	-------------------------	--	---	--------------------------

≡ Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population:-

Live Births	19.1 /	22.2	21.3	21.5
Still "	0.53 /	0.67	0.59	0.54
Deaths				
All Causes	11.5 /	12.7	11.7	12.7
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scarlet Fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02
Diphtheria	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Influenza	0.15	0.13	0.14	0.12
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	-
Measles	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01

Rates per 1,000 Live Births:-

Deaths under 1 Year of Age	43 /	46	37	41
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age	4.4	6.1	2.8	4.2

Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population:-

Notifications:-				
Typhoid Fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Paratyphoid Fever	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.01
Cerebro Spinal Fever	0.05	0.05	0.04	0.06
Scarlet Fever	1.33	1.51	1.33	1.42
Whooping Cough	2.28	2.48	2.05	2.22
Diphtheria	0.28	0.32	0.31	0.24
Erysipelas	0.22	0.25	0.22	0.27
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Measles	3.92	4.73	3.70	7.35
Pneumonia	0.89	1.02	0.74	0.75

Rates per 1,000 Total Births (Live and Still):-

(a) Notifications:-

Puerperal Fever	) 8.50	10.35	7.63	(1.62
Puerperal Pyrexia	)			(9.68

(b) Maternal Mortality in England and Wales:-

No. 140 Abortion with Sepsis	No. 141 Abortion without Sepsis	No. 147 Puerperal Infections	Nos. 142-6 148-150 Other
0.13	0.06	0.18	1.06

Abortion:- Mortality per million women aged 15-45 in England and Wales:-

No. 140 With Sepsis	No. 141 Without Sepsis
11	5

≡ A dash (-) Signifies that there were no deaths / including Puerperal fever
/ Per 1,000 related births - / Rates per 1,000 Total population

URBAN DISTRICT OF SEATON VALLEY.

Annual report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector
Year ended 31st December, 1946.

To the Chairman & Members of the
Urban District Council:

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in placing before you my second annual report, in which is given a brief review of the work of the department and the sanitary conditions obtaining in your district during the year 1946.

Housing:

There is still a grave shortage of houses within your area, there remain 843 occupied houses subject to closing orders, demolition orders or included in clearance areas, some of which are in a very bad state of repair and beyond carrying out any more than bare necessities of repair to keep them weatherproof. Included in the above figure are 45 houses requisitioned by the Council, and 124 held under licences under Defence (General) Regulations 1939, Regulation No. 68AA granted to the owners authorising occupation, this shows an increase of 32 licences over the 1945 figure.

Figures relative to overcrowding are in need of revision and a survey of the district should be carried out to ascertain the exact position. A great deal of time is occupied by the staff of the Health Department answering enquiries by the many unfortunate young people living in overcrowded conditions with relatives and friends and elderly people living in condemned houses in a bad state of repair who think it about time they had a turn for new accommodation. Nearly all are depressing cases and until there are more houses I am afraid this department and the Housing Department will be inundated with enquiries.

Drainage Works, Sewerage & Sanitary Alterations.

No privy conversions were carried out during the year. There are still in existence 288 privy boxes, 38 privies with 27 ashpits and 14 pail closets used in connection with houses which still have a useful life. It is very important that the conversion of these privies to water closets should take place in the very immediate future, these premises were mentioned in my 1945 report; apart from the above premises there remain 107 pail closets, 32 privy boxes and 143 privies with 76 ashpits in connection with houses scheduled for clearance and demolition which are still occupied. There are also 31 pail closets, 62 privy boxes and 60 privies with 32 ashpits in connection with houses which may be scheduled in a few years time.

Early action should be taken with the local collieries under the National Coal Board who continue to pour into the Brier Done and Seaton Burn streams fairly large quantities of coal washing plant effluent which deposits silt in the streams with the result that the Seaton Burn in particular is almost constantly black in appearance, and apart from spoiling the amenities of the District do the same in the areas of adjoining authorities through which the streams flow on their way to the North Sea.

The following drainage works were carried out during the year:

4 yards disused drain removed
 145 " new 4" drain installed
 124 " new 6" drain installed
 19 new trapped gullies installed
 1 defective watercloset removed
 12 new waterclosets provided
 10 new lavatory basins installed
 9 new sinks installed
 10 new baths installed
 14 new inspection chambers erected.

Inspection Work.

	<u>1946</u>	<u>1945</u>
Number for all purposes	3919	3354
Informal notices served during the year	376	
Complied with	388	

103 carried forward to 1947.

Statutory notices served during year	-	17
Statutory notices complied with during year	-	17

Disinfection and Disinfestation.

Two men are trained to carry out this work, the former work is carried out to premises after cases of scarlet fever have been removed to hospital or after completion of home nursing, all advice and help is given re disinfestation for vermin and in serious cases the work is performed by your own employees.

With reference to infectious diseases 76 visits were made with the result that 18 library books were destroyed and the various owners compensated amounting to £2. 16. 9.

Water Supply.

All premises within the district have mains water but a large percentage have not got internal supplies having to rely upon yard standpipes or street standpipes, the latter often serving for six or eight houses. Much waste of water occurs in frosty weather due to bursts and by tenants who fail to turn off the tap, internal supplies would save much water and cost to ratepayers.

Milk Supplies.

There were on the register at the end of the year:-

20 Milk producers, including 6 Accredited and 1 Tuberculin Tested.
 21 Milk Retailers.

One addition was made to the register of milk retailers and 2 producers were removed from the register as they had ceased to trade as such.

Inspections were made as follows:-

Cowsheds	-	33
Dairies	-	121

The bulk of the milk sold within the district is pasteurised as is all milk supplied to school children. Seven producers of ordinary and four producers of accredited milk sell within the district; five producers of ordinary and one producer of accredited and the one tuberculin tested producer deliver all their milk in the Whitley Bay area whilst four producers of ordinary and two producers of accredited milk send their milk to pasteurisation depots at Blyth and Stocksfield.

The following licences for sale of milk were issued under the Milk (Special Designations) Order 1936:-

Tuberculin Tested	-	1
Accredited	-	Nil
Pasteurised	-	5

85 milk samples were taken during the year and submitted to the County Laboratory at Newburn and the following results obtained:-

Designation	No.	Methylene Blue Test Result		Tubercle bacilli present
		Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	
Ordinary	54	36	18	-
Accredited	15	14	1	-
Pasteurised	11	8	3	-
Tuberculin Tested	5	3	2	-
	85	61	24	-

The above figures show that 71% of the samples taken proved to be satisfactory and whilst it is not a very high percentage it is not unreasonably low and I hope that with the amount of time spent, advice and instruction given to producers and dairy staffs the percentage will get higher in the future.

Meat and Other Foods.

The Ministry of Food have not a slaughtering establishment within the district with the result that all home killed meat is brought by road from premises in Newcastle upon Tyne and all carcasses including imported are delivered to and distributed from the Seaton Valley Retail Butchers' Association's Depot at Seaton Delaval; on the whole the quality is good but some meat was eventually condemned as unfit for human consumption due to bone taint, this was no doubt brought about by handling and transport to Seaton Delaval before complete setting had taken place. The transfer and handling of meat between Newcastle and Seaton Delaval and to butchers' shops has improved slightly over the last few years but the time has arrived when special meat conveying vans, properly ventilated, and with hanging accommodation for carcasses should be provided and so obviate the present system of carcass stacking and packing on old foul meat wrappers, with livers and plucks intermingled; the inside of such vehicles never look very clean whereas they should possess a meat shop window appearance.

56 inspections of retail butchers' shops were made with the result that the following meats were condemned:-

52½	lbs. Liver
84½	lbs. Beef
62	lbs. Lamb
209	lbs. Mutton

The carcasses of 246 pigs killed by allotment holders, cottagers and farmers were all found to be fit for human consumption.

Under the Slaughter of Animals Act 1953 twenty licences granted to slaughtermen were on the register at the end of the year.

129 inspections were made of retail food shops and all found to be maintained in a very satisfactory condition. The following foodstuffs were found to be unfit for human consumption due to various defects including nail punctures, blown in tins or general decomposition:-

288 pkts. Rudding Mixture	20 tins Salmon
25 lbs. Raisins	10 " Stewed Steak
104 tins Unsweetened Milk	56 " Baked Beans
20 " Sweetened Milk	24 " Pilchards
9 " Spam	33 " Peas
19 " Soup	5 " Sardines
5 " Crawfish	2 " Brisket
140 lbs. Dates	13 " M. & V.
3 tins Ready Made Meal	3 " Sausage Meat
1 tin Marmalade	1 tin Jam
7 tins Tongue	2 tins Pears
3 " Tomatoes	4 " Syrup
6 jars Lemon Curd	7 " Apricots
7 " Marmalade	25 lbs. Sausage
37 lbs. Vegetable Links	1 tin Sausage
9 " Sugar	528 lbs. Butter
42 jars Pickles	2 jars Paste
23 lbs. Cheese	216 1/2 lbs. Bacon
121 " Biscuit Meal	1 tin Bacon
21 pkts. Bun Powder	1 1/2 lbs. Polony
59 " Pat Flakes	1 tin Beetroot
5 " Custard Powder	2 tins Pork Luncheon Meat
3 Bottles Sauce	2 " Macaroni Cheese
1 tin Dried Egg	9 Sandwich Cakes
30 Meat Pies	86 Fruit Pies.

Shops Acts.

153 inspections were made of general retail shops with reference to heating, lighting, ventilation, sanitary accommodation and cleanliness, all premises were found to be maintained in a reasonable condition and no action found necessary.

Food Preparing Premises.

There are eleven fried fish and chip preparing premises within the district which open very infrequently due to lack of fats, the majority of the premises are not entirely satisfactory particularly the preparing premises usually at the rear of the shop and so soon as labour and materials are available many will have to be altered to comply with Section 13 Food and Drugs Act 1938.

There are four bakehouses within the district, two of which are operated by owner/occupiers and will have to be reconditioned in the near future to comply with the above mentioned Act.

There are eighteen premises wherein sausage, meat sundries, etc., are prepared, all of which are maintained in a reasonable condition but here again reconstruction will have to be carried out in the near future to comply with the above mentioned Act.

All the above premises are registered under Section 14 Food & Drugs Act 1938.

Factories Act 1937.

20 visits were made to factories using mechanical power and all found to comply with the provisions of the Act as administered by a District Council.

Petroleum and Carbide of Calcium.

The following licences were in force during the year:-

- 16 to store Petroleum Mixture
- 14 to store Carbide of Calcium - 1 of which is for gas generating purposes.

All premises are kept in good order and regulation notices exhibited for guidance of staffs.

Elementary Schools.

There are twentytwo schools within the district all of which are provided with waterclosets connected to the Council's sewers and washing facilities for the staff and pupils.

Billeting.

One evacuee from the London area was on the register at the end of the year.

Some visits were paid to houses wherein Bevin Boys are billeted and arrangements made re bedding, transfers or fresh billets.

Public Baths and Pools. Camping Sites.

None within the Urban District.

Cinemas.

There are five such places within the district each supplied with adequate sanitary accommodation and suitably ventilated.

Rats & Mice Destruction Act.

Advice was sought on many occasions by householders and business people on how to clear premises of an odd number of rats and mice, in most cases the premises were cleared fairly easily by poisoning, the work being done by the occupiers with materials sold to them or by our own operators (4 trained on staff) and the cost recovered.

Public Cleansing.

The collection of household refuse is efficiently carried out by four motor vehicles manned by a driver and 3, 4 and 5 men according to men available or season; there were also in use two horses and carts used chiefly on some 600 privies, each cart is manned by one man only.

One spare motor vehicle is maintained and is used to augment winter collections and in case of breakdown or maintenance work on other vehicles, great difficulty was experienced during the year to obtain spare parts and tyres to keep the vehicles on the road; the greatest difficulty was with the two old type Thornycroft vehicles which are deemed to be obsolete by the makers, these vehicles should be replaced as early as possible by modern vehicles and a steady policy of replacement (according to housing development) carried out until four or five 4/5 tons carrying capacity vehicles are obtained.

The remainder of the fleet of vehicles comprises the following:-

1 Thornycroft Handy	- 11 years old
1 Scammell Articulated	- 6 " "
1 Dennis	- 6 " "

, this vehicle is used for the cleaning of 152 pail closets remaining in the District

At the end of the year the outdoor staff consisted of one foreman, four full-time motor drivers, seventeen bin-lifters (one used as a spare driver), two cartmen, one tipman and one salvage sorter - twenty-six total.

During the year nine men left the department due to retirement, unsuitability for the heavy work due to age etc., and three men were transferred to the Surveyor's Department for road sweeping; two of these men had given years of valuable service to the Council and the former Earsdon Urban District Council; three men returned from the forces and another six men of good height and physique were engaged.

Month	Working days	Total man working days	Days lost
January	24	648	37
February	22	594	23
March	25 $\frac{1}{2}$	684 $\frac{1}{2}$	38
April	22	594	45
May	25	675	32
June	20 $\frac{1}{2}$	555 $\frac{1}{2}$	16
July	25	675	23
August	23 $\frac{1}{2}$	634 $\frac{1}{2}$	13
September	23	621	12
October	25	650	7
November	23 $\frac{1}{2}$	611	36
December	22	594	15
Totals	279	7484 $\frac{1}{2}$	297

Refuse was removed bi-weekly to and deposited on controlled tips at East Cramlington, Soghill, Holywell and in Backworth Colliery Yard, also on to the Cramlington Village Recreation ground for levelling purposes. Tipping is also taking place at Hartford (site main road), adjoining the Lvenue Colliery where colliery subsidence has given rise to flooding, this land will be restored above flood level and returned to cultivation when completed.

Tipping is also carried out on agricultural land as and when requested by farmers, this is usually done to regrade land following colliery subsidence.

The following figures show tonnage of refuse collected and the cost incurred and are for the financial year ending 31st March, 1947.

Month	Vehicles		Total Tonnage
	Motor	Horse Drawn	
April	1232	188	1420
May	1304	207	1511
June	1260 $\frac{3}{4}$	191 $\frac{1}{4}$	1452 $\frac{1}{2}$
July	1545	240 $\frac{1}{4}$	1785 $\frac{3}{4}$
August	1186 $\frac{1}{2}$	172 $\frac{1}{4}$	1359
September	1265	191	1456
October	1443 $\frac{1}{4}$	258 $\frac{5}{8}$	1702
November	1173 $\frac{1}{4}$	206 $\frac{1}{4}$	1379 $\frac{1}{2}$
December	1596 $\frac{1}{4}$	240	1636 $\frac{1}{4}$
January	1445 $\frac{1}{2}$	195 $\frac{1}{4}$	1641 $\frac{3}{4}$
February	1137 $\frac{1}{4}$	222 $\frac{1}{2}$	1360 $\frac{1}{4}$
March	1093 $\frac{1}{2}$	193 $\frac{1}{4}$	1297
	15682 $\frac{5}{8}$	2507 $\frac{7}{8}$	18190 $\frac{1}{2}$

Amount of refuse removed on basis of premises and population:-

	Per Year		Per Week		Per Day	
	T.	C.	T.	C.	T.	C.
Per house or premises	2	7.5	0	0.91	0	0.13
Per 1,000 population	706	8.5	13	11.6	1	18.7

Detailed cost of Refuse Collection and Salvage Collection and Disposal for the year ended 31st March, 1946.

	Collection			Disposal		
	£	s	d	£	s	d
Wages and Insurance	5227	9	11	191	19	0
Superannuation	250	8	0	9	12	0
Hired Haulage	302	5	1	-	-	-
Motor Account	3089	11	4	-	-	-
Stable Account	178	14	3	-	-	-
New Vehicles	-	-	-	-	-	-
Disinfectants	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rates & Rents of Tips	-	-	-	56	3	4
Tools	16	10	9	-	-	-
Rat Disinfestation	-	-	-	12	16	0
Protective Clothing	31	14	1	-	-	-
Work on Tips	-	-	-	26	9	0
Sundries	5	9	3	-	-	-
Salvage	443	11	1	-	-	-
	9545	13	9	296	19	4
Less Income						
Scavenging	3	1	6	-	-	-
Salvage	897	16	1	-	-	-
	£8644	16	2	£296	19	4

The cost per house or premises was 23s/5.02d. as against 21s/9.4d. for year ending 31st March, 1946.

Salvage is collected bi-weekly by means of trailers attached to the vehicles and is sorted, packed and paper and rags baled at our two depots, good markets are obtained for goods. The annual return for salvage could be greatly increased if only the residents or some of them could be encouraged to become salvage minded once more and show that very keen spirit displayed during the dark days of war, far too much paper, soap and powder packets and foodstuff packets, together with jam jars and bottles are finding their way into dust bins each week, all of which is affecting employment, paper mills are short of materials and beverages, vinegar etc., cannot be bottled due to shortage of bottles. I must point out that under the Salvage of Waste Materials Orders it is still an offence to throw away paper, cardboard, etc.

For the year ending 31st March, 1947, the income from salvage sales was £897. 16. 1. i.e., £139. 10. 10. less than the 1945 sales.

Your obedient Servant,

J.W. BARKER,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

